

**Testimony**  
**On House Bill 7035 An Act Concerning Ergonomics And Workplace Safety**  
**Before The Connecticut Joint Committee On Labor And Public Employees**

On behalf of IBM I am pleased to offer these written comments.

IBM has long been a Connecticut Corporate citizen and now employs 2500 hi-tech personnel at its Global Services HQ in Southbury and supports a number of CT community programs. Employee health, safety and well being all get a high priority in IBM.

The provisions of this bill are neither required nor practical and may be counter-productive for these reasons:

1. The national incidence of musculoskeletal disorders (MSD) has been declining for 8 years- testimony to what employers and employees already are doing. Even so, MSD represents a small percent of the total injury and illness picture
2. HB 7035 imposes expenditures to analyze all jobs and tasks, even if there has been no indication of a problem. Mandating a one-size-fits-all approach for all type of workplace – bakery, factory, delivery truck, or office – is not sensible.
3. Dealing with ergonomic practices calls for people with special scientific training and knowledge. Assigning such analysis to untrained individuals could lead to measures contrary to a safe workplace. Witness that there is a serious lack of consensus even in the scientific and medical communities as to causes and remedies for MSD. An array of studies show that many non-task factors – general health, fitness, and stress, to name a few – contribute to disorder causality.

We ask that the above factors be carefully considered before final action is taken on this bill.

Fred Stainken – for IBM  
860 767 0230  
fstainken@sbcglobal.net